

Top 10 Considerations for Culling and Transporting Dairy Animals to a Packing or Processing Facility

Culling and transporting decisions are an important part of dairy farming. Occasionally, an animal that is ambulatory on the farm may not be suitable for transport to a packing or processing facility. These "Top 10 Considerations for Culling and Transporting Dairy Animals to a Packing or Processing Facility" are designed to assist dairy producers in making the decision on the suitability for an animal to be transported.

1

Do not move non-ambulatory animals to market under any circumstances.



2

Make the decision to treat, to cull, or to euthanize animals promptly. Sick and injured animals should be segregated from the herd.

3

Delay transport of an animal that appears to be exhausted or dehydrated until the animal is rested, fed, and rehydrated.



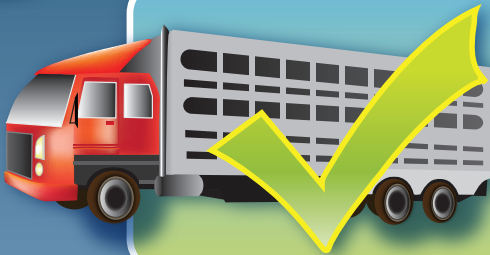
4

Milk all cows that are still lactating just prior to transporting to a packing or processing facility.



5

Use a transportation company that is knowledgeable about your animal care expectations and provides for the safety and comfort of the animals during transport.



6

Do not transport animals to a packing or processing facility until all proper treatment withdrawal times have been followed.



7

Do not transport animals with a poor body condition, generally a Body Condition Score of less than 2 (1-5 scale).



8

Do not transport animals that require mechanical assistance to rise and are reluctant or unable to walk, except for veterinary treatment. When using any handling device, abuse must not be tolerated.



9

Do not transport animals with bone fractures of the limbs or injuries to the spine. Animals with a recent fracture unrelated to mobility should be culled and transported directly to a packing or processing facility.



10

Do not transport animals with conditions that will not pass pre-slaughter inspection at a packing or processing facility. If unsure, consult with your veterinarian before transporting an animal to a packing or processing facility.

If you would like to order up to five additional copies or would like more information on the dairy animal culling and transporting sheet, please call (703) 224-1381 or email: poster@nmpf.org.

